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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS STATISTICS
JULY, 1946

(5)

This summary issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of July, 1946.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. The Act also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The rate of benefit per week is 25 shillings for a married person or an unmarried adult, plus 20 shillings for a dependent spouse and 5 shillings if the claimant has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age. Thus the maximum benefit is £2.10s. per week. For unmarried juveniles the rate of benefit is 15 shillings if under 18 years, and 20 shillings if 18 and under 21 years.

A claimant is allowed a certain income without the rate of benefit being affected. Beyond this allowable amount, the rate is reduced by the amount of the excess income.

The numbers of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total unemployment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of the "means test" excludes another group from benefit.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependents of such beneficiaries are not included.

GENERAL

Owing to circumstances beyond the control of this Bureau no bulletin has been issued since that for November, 1945. Future bulletins, it is hoped, will be issued at monthly intervals.

The results of the first year's operations are being tabulated in detail at present and a bulletin will be issued within the next few weeks giving a detailed analysis for the year ended 30th June, 1946. The total number of transactions for the year is set out below.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services.

SUMMARY - CLAIMS ADMITTED, EXITS, PERSONS ON BENEFIT.

The following tables show the number of benefits granted and discontinued during the year ended June, 1946 and during July, 1946 and beneficiaries remaining on benefit at 30th June and 31st July, 1946:-

CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC., FROM 1ST JULY, 1945 TO 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during year			Exits during year			On benefit at 30th June, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment ..	63,622	12,212	75,834	55,171	11,774	66,945	8,451	438	8,889
Sickness ..	31,974	6,471	38,445	25,847	5,094	30,941	6,127	1,377	7,504
Special ..	125	157	282	105	47	152	20	110	130
TOTAL:	95,721	18,840	114,561	81,123	16,915	98,038	14,598	1,925	16,523

CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC., DURING JULY, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Class of Benefit	Claims admitted during July, 1946			Exits during July, 1946			On benefit at 31st July, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Unemployment ..	3,981	348	4,329	3,665	324	3,989	8,767	462	9,229
Sickness ..	3,499	696	4,195	2,751	515	3,266	6,875	1,558	8,433
Special ..	20	11	31	14	8	22	26	113	139
<u>Total:</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>1,055</u>	<u>8,555</u>	<u>6,430</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>7,277</u>	<u>15,668</u>	<u>2,133</u>	<u>17,801</u>

BENEFITS PAID

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during July, 1946 are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING JULY, 1946 : STATES

State	Unemploy-	Sickness	Special	Total
	ment	£.	£.	
New South Wales (a) ..	10,013	18,188	167	28,368
Victoria ..	4,111	12,363	149	16,623
Queensland ..	35,164	6,754	185	42,103
South Australia (b) ..	3,045	6,246	47	9,338
Western Australia ..	10,462	4,685	135	15,282
Tasmania ..	623	2,169	216	3,008
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>63,418</u>	<u>50,405</u>	<u>899</u>	<u>114,722</u>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

The relatively large amount of unemployment benefit paid in Queensland was due mainly to the effects of power rationing together with industrial trouble in the meat industry and seasonal unemployment in the sugar industry.

In Western Australia the relatively large amount of unemployment benefit was due mainly to retrenchments occasioned by shortage of power and of materials.

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED

The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the 7,277 cases of benefit discontinued during July, 1946 is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING JULY, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit	Unemployment			Sickness			Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<u>Weeks</u>									
less than 1 ..	773	123	896	250	29	279	1,023	152	1,175
and under 2 ..	654	106	760	409	72	481	1,063	178	1,241
" " 3 ..	366	18	384	396	58	454	764	76	840
" " 4 ..	291	8	299	309	54	363	600	62	662
" " 5 ..	209	10	219	214	35	249	424	45	469
" " 9 ..	574	29	603	500	100	600	1,077	129	1,206
" " 13 ..	329	15	344	218	57	275	548	74	622
and over ..	469	15	484	455	110	565	931	131	1,062
<u>Total:</u>	<u>3,665</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>3,989</u>	<u>2,751</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>3,266</u>	<u>6,430</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>7,277</u>

(a) Includes Special Benefits (14 males, 8 females, 22 persons).

Of the 7,277 benefits discontinued during July, 1946, 1,175 (16 per cent.) were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, 2,081 (29 per cent.) for from one to less than three weeks, 1,131 (15 per cent.) for from three to less than five weeks, 1,206 (17 per cent.) for from five to less than nine weeks and 1,684 (23 per cent.) for nine weeks and over.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. 22 per cent. of unemployment and 9 per cent. of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 51 and 37 respectively.

Of the 3,989 cases of unemployment benefit terminated during July, 1946, 3,688 (92.5 per cent.) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has secured employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 173 (4.3 per cent.) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 52 (1.3 per cent.) transferred to Rehabilitation Allowance.

Of the 3,266 cases of sickness benefit terminated, 2,839 (86.9 per cent.) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 156 (4.8 per cent.) transferred to Invalid Pension, 132 (4 per cent.) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 61 (1.9 per cent.) died.

The number of unemployment claims admitted and discontinued during July, 1946, is understated due to delay in the despatch from Queensland of many grants due to power rationing. The balance of these grants will be included in the August tabulations. These delayed advices do not materially affect the number on benefit at the end of July as the number of these benefits discontinued approximated to the number of admissions.

PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF JULY, 1946

(1) TOTAL PERSONS. (a) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment. The proportion of persons on benefit at 31st July, 1946, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 76 per 10,000, comprising 39 unemployment, 36 sickness and 1 special cases per 10,000.

The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY, 1946 PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males ..	per 10,000 males	53	41	-	94
Females ..	per 10,000 females	7	23	2	32
Persons ..	per 10,000 persons	39	36	1	76

(1) TOTAL PERSONS. (b) State Totals. The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 31st July, 1946:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY, 1946 : STATES

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales(a)	1,738	137	2,596	570	5	29	4,339	736	5,075
Victoria ..	762	15	1,735	487	1	24	2,498	526	3,024
Queensland ..	4,132	247	946	165	5	20	5,083	432	5,515
South Australia(b)	408	8	785	124	2	5	1,195	137	1,332
Western Australia	1,597	53	519	137	11	9	2,127	199	2,326
Tasmania ..	130	2	294	75	2	26	426	103	529
TOTAL:	8,767	462	6,875	1,558	26	113	15,668	2,133	17,801

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(1) TOTAL PERSONS. (c) Ages. Distribution of beneficiaries at 31st July, 1946 according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE - PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st December 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
16 - 19 years	378	127	505	376	312	688	756	450	1,206
20 - 24 "	736	172	908	507	403	910	1,244	583	1,827
25 - 29 "	810	56	866	496	161	657	1,306	222	1,528
30 - 34 "	886	32	918	618	141	759	1,505	184	1,689
35 - 39 "	766	22	788	641	116	757	1,407	149	1,556
40 - 44 "	952	18	970	700	118	818	1,652	151	1,803
45 - 49 "	949	16	965	767	145	912	1,716	182	1,898
50 - 54 "	1,059	9	1,068	843	87	930	1,902	115	2,017
55 - 59 "	1,053	10	1,063	1,022	75	1,097	2,079	97	2,176
60 - 64 "	1,178	-	1,178	905	-	905	2,101	-	2,101
TOTAL:	8,767	462	9,229	6,875	1,558	8,433	15,668	2,133	17,801

(a) Includes Special Benefits (26 males, 113 females, 139 persons)

The above table shows that the incidence of unemployment and sickness amongst males is greater in the higher age groups, 59 per cent. of the unemployment and 62 per cent. of the sickness cases occurring in ages of 40 years and over. The decline in numbers of females over the age of 24 years is due to the smaller numbers in employment in these groups through large numbers quitting their employment on marriage.

(2) UNEMPLOYMENT. (a) Industrial Groups. In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups of those who were in receipt of unemployment benefits at 31st July, 1946. For comparison figures at 30th June, 1946 are added:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY, 1946
AND 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	On benefit at 30th June, 1946			On benefit at 31st July, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	924	3	927	838	4	842
Other Primary Production	..	91	-	91	109	-
Coal Mining	..	21	-	21	34	-
Other Mining and Quarrying	..	158	1	159	190	-
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding	..	1,059	23	1,082	874	20
Vehicles, including aircraft	..	212	6	218	205	6
Textiles and articles of dress	..	97	72	169	119	54
Food, drink and tobacco	..	1,889	149	2,038	1,822	143
Furniture, woodwork, etc.	..	166	2	168	162	5
Other factories, including heat, light and power	..	454	7	461	453	9
Building and Construction	..	586	-	586	693	-
Transport and Communication	..	577	9	586	685	15
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade	..	901	38	939	934	50
Finance and property	..	51	3	54	53	4
Public Administration and Professional	..	697	36	733	822	38
Personal and Domestic Service	..	413	74	487	472	93
Other	..	155	15	170	302	21
TOTAL:	8,451	438	8,889	8,767	462	9,229

(2). UNEMPLOYMENT. (b) Cause. The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by beneficiaries admitted to benefit during July, 1946 and by those who were on benefit at 31st July, 1946:-

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING JULY, 1946
AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during July, 1946			On benefit at 31st July, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons	53	2	55	99	4	103
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness	197	12	209	884	38	922
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment	661	31	692	1,043	46	1,089
Replaced by re-instated ex-service personnel, etc., relieving worker only	270	27	297	645	49	694
Other discharges, including inadequately defined	62	-	62	91	-	91
Laid-Off owing to -						
Power rationing	516	211	727	305	80	385
Shortage of materials	296	3	299	343	5	348
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment	72	4	76	291	16	307
Seasonal work	338	6	344	1,243	92	1,335
Casual work	511	1	512	655	2	657
Other reasons, including inadequately defined	54	1	55	99	8	107
Inadequately defined	-	-	-	1,602	30	1,632
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy	282	21	303	374	28	402
Other quits, including inadequately defined	304	18	322	570	44	614
Not Previously Employed -						
Employers, workers on own account	66	2	68	102	2	104
Ex-serviceman personnel not yet returned to work	295	3	298	408	5	413
Other	4	6	10	13	13	26
TOTAL:	3,981	348	4,329	8,767	462	9,229

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A lay-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.

This classification was adopted as from 1st July, 1946. Many benefits admitted prior to this date could not be allocated to either discharges or lay-offs because of an inadequate reason being stated. They have been included under the head "inadequately defined". The numbers under this head will diminish as these benefits are discontinued.

3. SICKNESS. (a) Industrial Groups. The distribution according to main industrial groups of those in receipt of sickness benefits at 31st July, 1946 is shown in the next table.

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY, 1946
AND 30TH JUNE, 1946 : AUSTRALIA

Industrial Group	On benefit at 30th June, 1946			On benefit at 31st July, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	487	14	501	569	11	580
Other Primary Production ..	117	1	118	147	1	148
Coal Mining ..	264	-	264	294	-	294
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	117	-	117	127	-	127
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal- working including shipbuilding ..	1,096	54	1,150	1,237	64	1,301
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	259	9	268	290	7	297
Textiles and articles of dress ..	228	256	484	250	305	555
Food, drink and tobacco ..	421	97	518	467	120	587
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	218	9	227	235	9	244
Other factories, including heat, light and power ..	499	87	586	578	101	679
Building and Construction ..	586	1	587	656	1	657
Transport and Communication ..	598	47	645	632	49	681
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade ..	546	203	749	620	238	858
Finance and property ..	37	14	51	44	20	64
Public Administration and Pro- fessional ..	344	241	585	391	263	654
Personal and Domestic Service ..	280	341	621	309	365	674
Other ..	30	3	33	29	4	33
TOTAL:	6,127	1,377	7,504	6,875	1,558	8,433

3. SICKNESS. (b) Nature of Sickness. The following table shows the principal types of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, etc. of those who were in receipt of Sickness Benefit at 31st July, 1946, compared with those as at 30th June, 1946:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS - PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 31ST JULY AND 30TH JUNE, 1946
AUSTRALIA

Nature of Sickness	At 30th June, 1946			At 31st July, 1946		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	381	110	491	434	123	557
Cancer ..	61	8	69	54	8	62
Other Tumours ..	41	37	78	54	45	99
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	496	138	634	533	153	686
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood forming organs ..	51	38	89	55	37	92
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	571	199	770	630	211	841
Circulatory System ..	787	78	865	861	96	957
Respiratory System ..	645	106	751	801	127	928
Digestive System ..	1,018	183	1,201	1,148	223	1,371
Genito-Urinary System ..	280	79	359	301	92	393
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	121	121	-	134	134
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	303	46	349	319	60	379
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	170	26	196	194	29	223
Other Diseases (including Ill- Defined Conditions) ..	96	46	142	105	52	157
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ..	732	70	802	828	76	904
Other Injuries, etc. ..	421	57	478	479	50	529
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	37	25	62	46	31	77
Other ..	37	10	47	33	11	44
TOTAL:	6,127	1,377	7,504	6,875	1,558	8,433

The principal diseases included in the above figures as at 31st July, 1946

are:-

Infectious and parasitic diseases - tuberculosis (127 males, 64 females), influenza (123, 17); rheumatism, etc. - acute rheumatic fever (75, 36), chronic rheumatism and other rheumatic diseases (309, 57), rheumatism not specified as acute or chronic (69, 14); diseases of the nervous system - mental disorders deficiency (238, 147), neuritis (129, 17); diseases of the circulatory system - diseases of the myocardium (196, 5), diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris (162, 1), other heart diseases (241, 30) varices (92, 15), idiopathic high blood pressure (95, 23); diseases of the respiratory system - bronchitis (239, 37), inflammatory diseases of the lung and pleura (pneumonia, pleurisy, etc.) (279, 44), asthma (110, 16); diseases of the digestive system - ulcer of stomach (198, 14), ulcer of duodenum (142, 9), appendicitis (228, 94), hernia (223, 9); diseases of the genito-urinary system - diseases of the kidneys and ureters (179, 39); diseases of the bones, etc. - osteomyelitis and periostitis (72, 6); fractures - of the upper limbs (225, 17), of the lower limbs (421, 46).

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